

Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-16

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5881

INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT,PK

SUBJ: WALI KHAN PRESS CONFERENCE

SUMMARY: WALI KHAN, IN TWO-HOUR PRESS CONFERENCE, REVILED BHUTTO AS "MAD MAN IN NEED OF PSYCHIATRIST" AND CALLED UPON PPP TO GET RID OF HIM FOR GOOD OF COUNTRY. HE CHARGED BHUTTO AND GOVERNMENT WITH FOSTERING SINDHU-DESH MOVEMENT AND DISMISSED GOP REPORTS OF INDIAN AND AFGHAN TROOP MOVEMENTS AS CRIES OF WOLF. END SUMMARY.

1. NAP LEADER WALI KHAN, ADDRESSING PRESS CONFERENCE IN ISLAMABAD JULY 17, REPLIED BITTERLY TO PRIMIN BHUTTO'S RECENT CRITICISM OF HIM DURING LATTER'S JUST-CONCLUDED TOUR OF NORTH WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE. WALI'S MORE TEMPERATE REMARKS WERE REPORTED ONLY BY KARACHI DAWN AND OPPOSITION URDU DAILY NAWA-I-WAQT, AND IN DISTORTED FORM BY GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED PRESS, WHILE REMAINDER WENT UNREPORTED. AMONG UNREPORTED COMMENTS, ACCORDING TO THOSE PRESENT, WERE CHARGES THAT BHUTTO WAS "MAD MAN

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BADLY IN NEED OF PSYCHIATRIST," AN APPEAL TO PPP TO GET RID OF BHUTTO FOR GOOD OF PARTY AND COUNTRY, AN ASSERTION THAT BHUTTO AND PAKISTAN CANNOT EXIST TOGETHER, AND AN ACCUSATION THAT PRIMIN STIRRED UP AHMADIYA ISSUE TO COVER HIS FAILURE TO SOLVE PRESSING ECONOMIC ISSUES. AMONG COMMENTS CARRIED BY PRESS, NAWA-I-WAQT PARTIALLY REPORTED WALI'S CHARGE THAT BHUTTO AND HIS GOVERNMENT WERE STRENGTHENING SO-CALLED SINDHU-DESH (SIND SECESSIONIST) MOVEMENT BY PERMITTING PUBLICATION OF ANTI-PUNJAB PROPAGANDA, DISTRIBUTING LITERATURE, JEEPS AND MONEY AND APPOINTING PRO-SINDHU-DESH ENVOYS ABROAD. PAPER ALSO REPORTED WALI'S ASSERTION THAT THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE HAD FLED TO AFGHANISTAN FOR WANT OF FOOD AND WATER.

2. FURTHER COMMENTS REPORTED BY PRESS INCLUDED FOLLOWING: AFGHAN PRESIDENT DAUD DOES NOT WISH ENMITY WITH PAKISTAN; HE (WALI) IS A BETTER PAKISTANI THAN BHUTTO; BHUTTO'S OSTENSIBLY WARM WELCOME IN DACCA WAS GENERATED BY BIHARIS DESIRING TO GO TO PAKISTAN; PAKISTAN HAS NO FRIENDS AT PRESENT, NOT EVEN CHINA AND IRAN. REGARDING GOP EXPRESSIONS OF ALARM AT ALLEGED DEPLOYMENT OF INDIAN AND AFGHAN TROOPS ON PAKISTAN'S BORDERS, WALI CHARGED THAT BHUTTO WAS ONLY CRYING WOLF. WHAT WAS LEFT OF PAKISTAN FOLLOWING 1971 PARTITION COULD NOT BE GIVEN THE NAME PAKISTAN, HE SAID, AS IT CONSISTED ONLY OF FOUR PROVINCES AND NOT PAKISTAN AS ORIGINALLY CONCEIVED. WALI ALSO CALLED UPON INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES SUCH AS RED CROSS TO INVESTIGATE AND INTERVENE IN BALUCHISTAN, WHERE HE COMPLAINED THAT GOVERNMENT HAD NOT LET HIM VISIT CERTAIN AREAS.

3. COMMENT: ACCORDING TO THOSE WHO ATTENDED PRESS CONFERENCE, WALI WAS EVEN MORE BITTER AND EXTREME THAN USUAL IN HIS CRITICISM OF BHUTTO AND GOP. OPPOSITION SUPPORTERS HAVE EXPRESSED TO EMBOFFS THEIR SHOCK AND ANGER BHUTTO'S CHARACTERIZATION OF WALI AS DISLOYAL AGENT OF AFGHANISTAN IN HIS SPEECHES DURING NWFP TOUR. WALI TOO HAS OBVIOUSLY BEEN STUNG BY HIS REMARKS. WALI'S INTEMPERATE RESPONSE, HOWEVER, HAS EVOKED GOOD DEAL OF CRITICISM AND WILL ADD NOTHING TO HIS INFLUENCE, WHICH STILL LIMITED TO FRONTIER AND, TO LESSER EXTENT, BALUCHISTAN.

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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